

REMARKS

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 20-32, 34, 38-43, and 97-143 are pending in this application. Claims 20-32, 34, 38-43, and 97-143 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,950,176 (hereinafter “Keiser ‘176”). The Examiner’s rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present application claims priority as a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/465,607, filed December 17, 1999, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/184,571, filed November 2, 1998, issued on January 7, 2003 as U.S. Patent No. 6,505,174, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/620,906, issued on September 7, 1999 as U.S. Patent No. 5,950,176.

The Keiser ‘176 patent is the first patent in the lineage of and to which the present application claims priority. Therefore, the Keiser ‘176 patent is not prior art to the present application under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that the pending claims are in a condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants’ undersigned representative at 212-829-5407 to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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